

AMENDMENTS

In The Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) Process for the continuous production of liquid coating compositions comprising

- a. introducing in a first stage one or more liquid low-solvent or solvent-free binders into an extruder together with pigments and additives, and subsequently mixing and dispersing the components in a viscous state at an elevated temperature below 200°C,
- b. introducing proportions of organic solvents and/or water and additional constituents of the coating composition in one or more following stages into the extruder, wherein the viscosity of the process mixture is reduced and the temperature of the process mixture is lowered below 70°C,
- c. discharging the process mixture from the extruder and adding further organic or inorganic solvents and optionally adding additional components of the coating composition and ~~[discharging the process mixture from the extruder and]~~
- d. homogenizing the process mixture in one or more high shear mixers to form the liquid coating composition.

Claim 2. (original) Process according to claim 1 wherein the binders are fed into the extruder in a molten state.

Claim 3. (cancelled) Process according to claim 1 wherein the binders are fed into the extruder in a solid state.

Claim 4. (original) Process according to claim 1 wherein organic solvents are added to the process mixture.

Claim 5. (original) Process according to claim 1 wherein water is added to the process mixture.

Claim 6. (original) Process according to claim 5 wherein emulsifiers and/or neutralizing agents are added to the process mixture in a process stage prior to or together with the water.

Claim 7. (original) Process according to claim 1 wherein cross-linking binders are fed into the extruder.

Claim 8. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1 wherein ~~[appropriate]~~ cross-linking binders are fed into the process mixture in a subsequent process stage.

Claim 9. (original) Process according to claim 1 wherein one or more organic and/or inorganic pigments and extenders are fed into the extruder together with the binders.

Claim 10. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1 wherein one or more organic and/or inorganic pigments and extenders are fed into the ~~[molten]~~ binders in the extruder.

Claim 11. (original) Process according to claim 9 wherein effect pigments are added to the process mixture in a subsequent process stage.

Claim 12. (original) Process according to claim 10 wherein effect pigments are added to the process mixture in a subsequent process stage.

Claim 13. (cancelled) Process according to claim 1 wherein the temperature of the process mixture on discharge from the extruder is below 70°C.

Claim 14. (original) Process according to claim 4 wherein on discharge from the extruder, the process mixture is in a flowable state.

Claim 15. (original) Process according to claim 5 wherein on discharge from the extruder, the process mixture is in a flowable state.

Claim 16. (original) Process according to claim 14 wherein additional solvents are added to the process mixture before it passes through the high shear mixer.

Claim 17. (original) Process according to claim 1 wherein the extruder comprises devices for cooling or heating the process mixture.

Claim 18. (currently amended) Process according to claim 17 wherein ~~that~~ a cooling device is present between the extruder and high shear mixer.